

FORM PTO-1390
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

MM4490 (PCT)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

10/030584

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/FR00/02017

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

July 13, 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

July 13, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

USE OF SULPHONIC AND PHOSPHONIC ACIDS.....COMPOSITE MATERIALS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Thomas OLINGA, citizen of Cameroon; Adam PRON, citizen of Polynesia and Jean-Pierre TRAVERS, French citizen

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
 4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
 5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
 6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
 7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
 8. ☒ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).
 9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
 10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
- Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:**
11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 13. ☐ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
 14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
 15. ☐ A substitute specification.
 16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
 17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
 18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
 19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
 20. ☒ Other items or information: Certificate of Mailing Stamps on separate sheet
Required PCT papers

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.51) 10/030384		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/02017		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER MM4490 (PCT)	
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21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 890.00 </div>	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ </div>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	27 - 20 =	7	x \$18.00	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 126.00 </div>	
Independent claims	5 - 3 =	2	x \$84.00	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 168.00 </div>	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ </div>	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 1184.00 </div>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ </div>	
SUBTOTAL =				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 1184.00 </div>	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ </div>	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 1184.00 </div>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 40.00 </div>	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> \$ 1224.00 </div>	
				Amount to be refunded: \$	
				charged: \$ 1224.00	

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

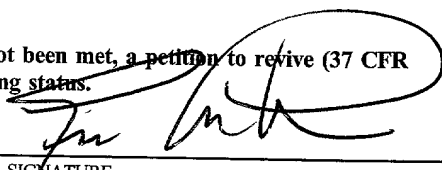
b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 01-1944 in the amount of \$ 1224.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-1944. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:


 SIGNATURE
 Eugene Lieberstein
 NAME
 24,645
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

1/p.b

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USE OF SULPHONIC AND PHOSPHONIC ACIDS AS DOPANTS FOR
POLYANILINE CONDUCTOR FILMS AND FOR POLYANILINE-BASED
CONDUCTOR COMPOSITE MATERIALS

Technical field

The present invention concerns the use of sulphonic and phosphonic acids as dopants for polyaniline-based electricity conductive materials.

More precisely, it concerns the manufacture of
5 highly conductive polyaniline films having good mechanical properties, able to be used either in the form of thin films deposited on an appropriate substrate, or in the form of self-supporting films.

It also concerns the manufacture of conductor
10 composite materials containing polyaniline and an insulating polymer.

These polyaniline films and films of polyaniline-based materials may be used for electromagnetic shielding, as antistatic materials or as semi-
15 transparent electrodes in optoelectronic devices.

Prior art

Generally, conductor polyaniline films are prepared from a solution of polyaniline in an organic
20 solvent by pouring the solution and evaporating the solvent. To obtain a conductor film, the polyaniline needs to be conductive. However, polyaniline is generally obtained in its basic form which is not conductive, and it is therefore necessary to convert
25 this basic form into a conductive protonated form, either before preparation of the film or after its manufacture.

This conversion may be obtained using an appropriate dopant, generally an acid to cause the polyaniline to undergo a protonation reaction.

5 The protonation of polyaniline, after obtaining the film, is a complication that is hardly acceptable from an industrial viewpoint. Moreover, it is difficult to obtain a homogeneous product in this case since protonation is conducted in the solid state.

10 A further problem encountered for the preparation of polyaniline films resides in the fact that polyaniline is a polymer that is both infusible and very difficult to dissolve.

15 Document [1]: Synthetic Metals, 21, 1987, pp. 21-30, illustrates the use of acetic acid with a polyaniline in emeraldine form to prepare a solution of protonated polyaniline which can lead to the formation of polyaniline films through evaporation of the solvent.

20 However the films obtained from these solutions are scarcely conductive (0.5 at 2 S/cm) and have very poor mechanical properties. In addition, they ill withstand deprotonation which causes a sharp drop in the conductivity of the polymer.

25 Reference [2]: Polymer, 34, N°20, 1993, pp. 4235-4240, illustrates the use of diesters of phosphoric acids to protonate a polyaniline in emeraldine form and to make it soluble in various solvents such as toluene, chloroform and tetrahydrofuran (THF) for the purpose of preparing conductor polyaniline films. In this case, 30 the protonating agent acts simultaneously as plasticizer and thereby facilitates the use of the polyanilines in film form or in the form of composite materials.

Reference [3]: Synthetic Metals, 48, 1992, pp. 91-97, illustrates the use of another polyaniline protonating agent formed of dodecylbenzenesulphonic acid. As previously, the use of this protonating agent facilitates the use of polyaniline in film form. Although the films obtained in accordance with references [2] and [3] are more resistant to deprotonation, they have mediocre mechanical properties and average conductivity.

Reference [4]: Kulszewicz-Bajer et al., Synthetic Metals, 101, 1999, pp. 713-714, illustrates the use of the di(n-amyl), di(n-decyl), di(butoxy-2-ethyl) and di[2-(butoxy-2-ethoxyl)ethyl] diesters of 5-sulphoisophtalic acid and the rocanol esters of this 5-sulphoisophtalic acid as dopants for a polyaniline. However, the polyaniline films doped with these esters obtained from a solution in chloroform have largely insufficient conductivity, in the order of $3 \cdot 10^{-3}$ S/cm.

It is possible to obtain films having high conductivity, exceeding 300 S/cm for example, by evaporation of a solution containing a polyaniline, camphor sulphonic acid as dopant and metacresol as solvent, as is described in J. Chem. Phys., 103, 22, 1995, pp. 9855-9863 [5].

This solution which appears to be of interest, has the disadvantage that the films contain 12 to 14 % by weight of residual meta-cresol which is a toxic product. Another dopant and solvent system such as the 4-ethylbenzene sulphonic acid - hexafluoropropanol system described in reference [6]: Polymer Preprints, 36, 1995, pp. 396-397, leads to a highly conductive film, but the use of this fluorine-containing alcohol

on an industrial scale is not possible on account of its toxicity and high cost.

Reference [7]: J. Phys., Condens. Matter, 10, 1998, pp. 8293-8303 describes the use of the system: 2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propane sulphonic acid - dichloroacetic acid, with which it is possible to obtain high conductivity. However, the films obtained have low mechanical properties.

Therefore, none of the above-described systems acceptable for use on an industrial scale can be used to obtain simultaneously a polyaniline film having both high conductivity and strong mechanical properties, in particular good flexibility.

The problem is also raised of obtaining conductive composite materials from a mixture of polyaniline with insulating polymers, having both good conductor properties and good mechanical properties.

Reference [8]: Physical Review B, 50, 1994, pp. 13931-13941, and reference [9]: WO-A-98/05040, describe the manufacture of conductor composites containing a polymer host matrix in which a conductor polyaniline is distributed, having extremely low percolation thresholds, less than 1 %.

The percolation threshold can be defined as the minimal volume fraction of conductor phase which makes the material conductive on macroscopic scale.

This percolation threshold may be determined using the following formula:

$$\sigma(f) = c(f-f_c)^t$$

in which:

- σ represents conductivity,
- c is a constant,
- t is the critical exponent,

- f represents the volume fraction of the conductor phase, and

- f_c is the fraction of conductor phase at the percolation threshold.

5 In composites with a low percolation threshold, it could be thought that the mechanical properties of the conductor phase should not have too great an effect on the mechanical properties of the composite since this fraction is very low.

10 However, it is found that the mechanical properties of the composite are deteriorated by the presence of the polyaniline conductor phase, even in systems having a very low percolation threshold. Consequently, it is of great interest to improve the
15 mechanical properties of polyaniline in such composites.

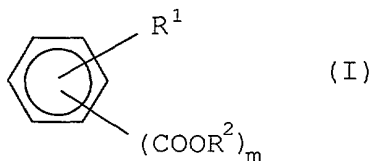
Disclosure of the invention

20 The subject matter of the present invention is precisely the use of new doping agents for polyanilines, with which it is possible to improve the mechanical properties of polyaniline films doped with these agents. These new doping agents act both as plasticizer and as protonating agent. They allow high
25 conductivity levels to be obtained, up to approximately 200 to 300 S/cm of metallic type, and concomitant improvement of the mechanical properties of polyaniline films and of polyaniline-based conductor composites with insulating polymers, in the region of and above
30 the percolation threshold.

Therefore, the subject of the invention is a composition for the manufacture of polyaniline films, made up of a solution, in an organic solvent, of a

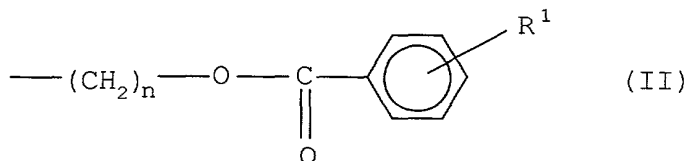
polyaniline in base emeraldine form and of a dopant formed of a sulphonic or phosphonic acid meeting the formula:

5



in which:

- 10
- R^1 represents $-SO_3H$ or PO_3H_2 ,
 - R^2 is a linear or branched alkyl group and m is equal to 1 or 2, or
 - R^2 is a group with the formula:

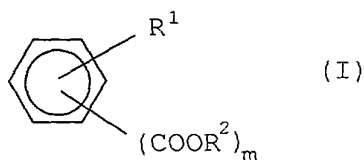


15 in which R^1 is such as defined above and n is a whole number ranging from 1 to 16, and m equals 1, with the exception of the di(n -anyl), di(n -decyl), di(butoxy-2-ethyl) and di[2-(butoxy-2-ethoxy)ethyl] esters of 5-sulphoisophthalic acid and the esters of 5-sulpho-isophthalic acid and rocanol.

20

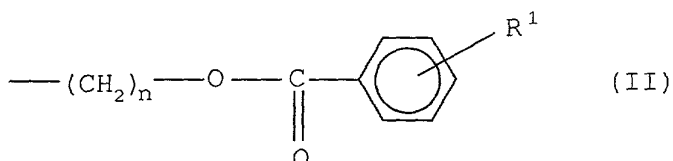
It also concerns a composition for the manufacture of a conductor composite material containing:

- an organic solvent,
- a polyaniline in base emeraldine form,
- 25 - a dopant formed of a sulphonic or phosphonic acid meeting the formula:



in which:

- R^1 represents $-SO_3H$ or PO_3H_2 ,
- 5 - R^2 is a linear or branched alkyl group and m equals 1 or 2, or
- R^2 is a group with the formula:



10 in which R^1 is such as defined above and n is a whole number ranging from 1 to 16, and m equals 1,

- an insulating polymer, and
- a plasticizer for the insulating polymer.

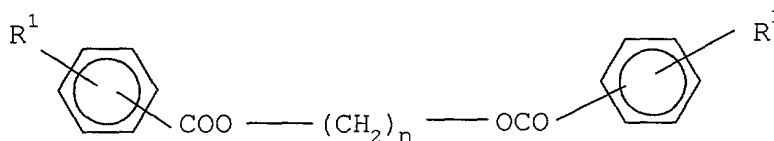
15 In formula (I), the R^2 group is a linear or branched alkyl group, preferably having from 4 to 12 carbon atoms such as to form a hydrophobic group acting as plasticizer and with which it is possible to improve the solubility of the polyanilines in organic solvents.

20 As an example of a group which may be used, the 2-ethyl-hexyl group may be cited.

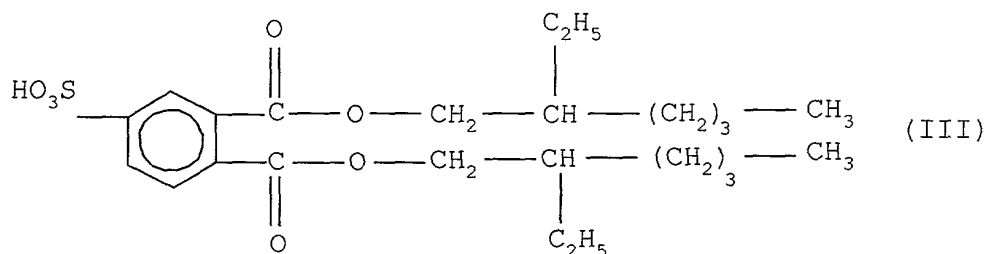
If m equals 2, these phosphonic or sulphonic acids correspond to esters of phthalic, isophthalic and terephthalic acids functionalised with an acid group of
25 $-SO_3H$ or $-PO_3H_2$ type.

If m equals 1, they are benzoates functionalised on the aromatic cycle by the above-cited acid groups or

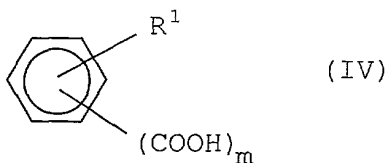
they are dibenzoates also functionalised by acid groups and meeting the formula:



- 5 By way of example, the sulphonic acid may meet the formula:



- 10 These sulphonic or phosphonic acids may be prepared from corresponding functionalised phthalic or benzene acids meeting the formula:

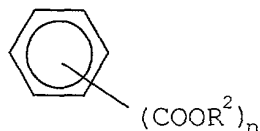


- 15 in which R¹ and m are such as defined above by esterification of these acids using an alcohol of formula R²OH in which R² is such as defined above.

- 20 The acids of formula (IV) used as starting products in this method are commercially available products or may be prepared by sulphonation or phosphorylation of phthalic acids or of benzene acid.

If R^2 represents the group of formula (II) and m equals 1, the sulphonic or phosphonic acid may be prepared in the same way by esterification of the acid of formula (IV) with the corresponding R^2OH alcohol in which R^2 is the group of formula (II), or alternatively
 5 by condensation of two molecules of formula (IV) in which $m = 1$, with a diol of $HO-(CH_2)_n-OH$ type.

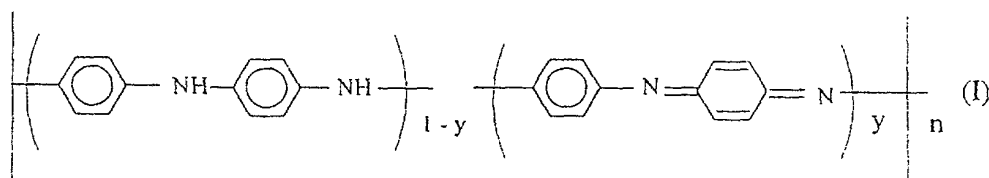
The sulphonic and phosphonic acids described above have good properties as protonating agent on account of
 10 the SO_3H or PO_3H_2 group, and as plasticizer and solubilising agent through the presence of the group:



Therefore, they may be used in compositions for
 15 the manufacture of polyaniline films.

In the compositions of the invention, the role of the functionalised dopant of formula (I) is to improve the mechanical properties and more particularly the flexibility of the films or deposits obtained from the
 20 composition by evaporation of the solvent.

The polyaniline used in this composition is in base emeraldine form. It may be prepared by conventional oxidizing polymerisation or by enzymatic polymerisation, or by other methods such as
 25 electrochemical polymerisation. Base emeraldine meets the formula:

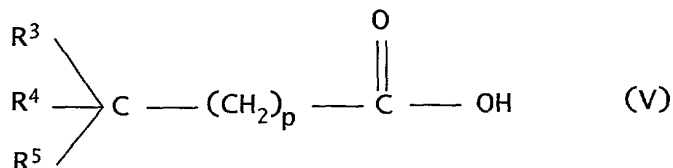


where $y = 0.5$.

It is specified that, according to the invention, by polyaniline is meant not only the polyanilines obtained by polymerisation of aniline, but also the polyanilines obtained from aniline substituted on the cycle or on nitrogen.

The solvents used in these compositions may be of various types, but preference is given to non-toxic, inexpensive solvents which do not have a propensity to remain within the matrix of the polyaniline film after pouring and evaporation of the solvent.

Therefore, as solvent, preferential use is made of halogenated derivatives of a carboxylic acid having the formula:



15

in which R^3 , R^4 and R^5 , which may be identical or different, represent H or a halogen atom chosen from among F, Cl and Br, at least one of R^3 , R^4 and R^5 representing a halogen atom, and p equals 0.1 or 2.

When the derivatives meeting formula (V) contain 2 or 3 halogen atoms, the latter may evidently be different.

As an example of solvents which may be used, mention may be made of dichloroacetic, difluoroacetic, α -trifluoroacetic, chlorodifluoroacetic, 2-chloropropionic, 2-bromobutyric and 2,2-dichloropropionic acids.

In the compositions of the invention for the manufacture of conductor polyaniline films, the

polyaniline and dopant contents of the solution are such that the molar ratio of the dopant to the polyaniline in base emeraldine form lies within the range of 0.4 to 0.6.

5 This ratio is calculated on the basis of a molar mass of base emeraldine corresponding to a monomer motif of emeraldine which is 90.5 g. The polyaniline content of the solution generally lies within the range of 0.1 to 1 % by weight.

10 Should high concentrations be used, the storage time for the solution must be shortened in order avoid gelling.

15 To prepare a polyaniline film from this composition, the solution is poured onto a carrier and the solvent is evaporated. The carrier may be left in place or a self-supporting film may be made by separating it from the carrier.

20 A further subject of the invention is a composition for the production of polyaniline-based conductor composite materials, which contains:

- an organic solvent
- a polyaniline in base emeraldine form,
- a dopant made up of a sulphonic or phosphonic acid of formula (I) described above,
- 25 - an insulating polymer, and
- a plasticizer for the insulating polymer.

In this composition, the dopants and the organic solvents used are identical to those cited for the composition used to produce polyaniline films.

30 The polyaniline and dopant concentrations in the solution also lie within the same ranges.

In this composition, the role of the functionalised dopant is not only to improve the

mechanical properties, flexibility in particular, but also to lower the percolation threshold of the composite material containing polyaniline and an insulating polymer.

5 The insulating polymers used may be of different types. By way of example, polystyrene may be cited, or polymethylmethacrylate, cellulose polymers, polyvinylchloride, polycarbonates, polyesters and polyurethanes.

10 In this composition, a plasticizer for the insulating polymer is also used. Conventional plasticizers may be used such as the diesters of phthalic acids, the diesters of dicarboxylic acids or the triesters of phosphoric acid.

15 The choice of these plasticizers allows further lowering of the percolation threshold of the composite material.

20 The plasticizer and insulating polymer contents of the composition are chosen such as to obtain satisfactory conductivity of the composite material.

Generally, the composition is prepared by mixing a first solution of the polyaniline and dopant in the solvent with a second solution in the same solvent of the insulating polymer and plasticizer.

25 The polyaniline and dopant concentration in the first solution is generally from 0.1 to 1 % by weight.

30 The concentration of insulating polymer and plasticizer in the second solution is generally from 5 to 10 % by weight, and the ratio of the plasticizer content over the insulating polymer content is generally from 20 to 45 % by weight.

To prepare the composition, the two solutions are mixed for sufficient time to obtain good homogeneity.

To prepare the composite material, the said composition is then poured to form a film and the solvent is slowly evaporated.

Evaporation may be conducted at room temperature or at a higher temperature, for example from 25 to 40°C in a nitrogen atmosphere.

Generally, the quantities of mixed solutions are such that after evaporation of the solvent a composite material is obtained containing:

- a) 0.06 to 10 % by weight polyaniline and dopant,
- b) 55 to 99.9 % by weight of insulating polymer, and
- c) up to 44.94 % by weight of plasticizer for the insulating polymer.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will become better apparent on reading the following examples, evidently given for illustration purposes and therefore non-limitative, with reference to the appended drawings.

Brief description of the drawings

Figure 1 illustrates the variations in reduced conductivity of a polyaniline film of the invention PANI (DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA and of a polyaniline film of the prior art PANI(CSA)_{0.5}/MC in relation to temperature (in K).

Figure shows the stress/strain curves of a polyaniline film of the invention PANI(DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA and of a polyaniline film of the prior art PANI(CAS)_{0.5}/MC.

Detailed description of embodiments

The following examples illustrate the use of the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid, that is to say the sulphonic acid of formula (III) as dopant for the production of polyaniline films and of polyaniline-containing composite material films.

Example 1

In this example, a highly conductive, self-supporting polyaniline film according to the invention is prepared which has excellent mechanical properties, flexibility properties in particular. The doping agent used is the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid, that is to say the sulphonic acid of formula (III).

With this dopant, it is possible to make the base emeraldine polyaniline conductive.

a) Preparation of base emeraldine

Base emeraldine is prepared according to a modified version of the method described in the publication by P.M. Beadle, Y.F. Nicolau, E.Bank, P. Rannou and D. Djurado in Synthetic Metals, 95, 1998 pp. 29-45 [10]. The reaction is conducted at -27°C.

Firstly, an aniline solution is prepared in a mixture of water-alcohol-HCl and LiCl. The exact composition is as follows: 10 ml (0.1097 mole) aniline, 85 ml 3M HCl solution, 95 ml ethanol and 16 g LiCl. To this solution is added the solution containing the oxidant, previously cooled to -27°C, whose composition is the following: 6.25 g (0.0274 mole) ammonium persulphate, 60 ml 2M HCl solution and 8 g LiCl. The

reaction is carried out while making permanent measurements of temperature and solution potential. After approximately 2 hours, a reducing solution is added made up of 3.64 g (0.0183 mole) FeCl₂, 5 g LiCl and 50 ml 2M HCl to better control the oxidation state of the polyaniline. After 1 additional hour, the reaction is halted by separating the precipitated polymer, either by centrifugation or by filtration. The precipitate is washed several times in distilled water and then in methanol, and it is finally dried until a constant mass is obtained. The emeraldine salt so obtained is then converted to base emeraldine by treatment in 2 litres of aqueous 0.3M NH₃ solution for 48 hours. The base emeraldine is then rinsed in 5 to 6 litres of distilled water, then in 2 litres of methanol and it is dried until a constant mass is obtained.

In the following step, the fractions of low molecular weight are removed by successive methanol and chloroform exactions using a Soxhlet apparatus. The inherent viscosity of the base emeraldine so obtained in a solution at 0.1 % by weight in 98 % sulphuric acid is 2.25 dl/g.

b) Preparation of the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid.

6.3 g (25.6 mmole) of 4-sulphophtalic acid in the form of a 50 % by weight aqueous solution is mixed with 10 g (76.8 mmole) of 2-ethyl-1-hexanol at room temperature under a stream of nitrogen. The temperature of the mixture is raised to 110-120°C. The reaction is continued at this temperature for 2 to 3 hours and the water produced in the reaction is constantly removed by distillation. The reaction mixture is then poured into

an aqueous solution of 1M HCl. After 5 to 10 min, the mixture separates into two phases. The organic phase is collected and washed 3 times with an aqueous 1M HCl solution. The product is then ether extracted. After evaporation of the ether and volatile impurities, the product is dried on MgSO₄. Finally, the product is identified and characterized by elementary analysis, IR spectroscopy, mass spectroscopy and proton NMR.

10 c) Preparation of the self-supporting, highly
conductive polyaniline film.

140 g of base polyaniline are mixed with 369 mg of the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid (DEHEPSA) with 48 ml dichloroacetic acid (DCAA). The mixture is shaken vigorously at room temperature for 4 to 5 days until no further changes in the UV-Vis-NIR spectrum are seen to occur. The solution formed is filtered on a 0.45 μ m microfilter. A film is poured from this solution by evaporation at 40°C under a stream of nitrogen. The film obtained is rinsed in water and it is vacuum dried at 50°C. The film has excellent flexibility: it can be bent several times without undergoing any degradation. Elementary analysis shows that the film no longer contains any solvent. Its conductivity, measured by a 4-contact method, is typically 100 to 200 S/cm at room temperature.

In figure 1, the variations are shown in relation to temperature (in K) of the reduced conductivity of the film obtained in this example called PANI (DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA and of the film PANI(CSA)_{0.5}/MC obtained according to the prior art (reference [5]) using camphor sulphonic acid (CSA) as dopant and m-cresol (MC) as solvent.

Reduced conductivity is the conductivity divided by maximum conductivity, which in the tested PANI(DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA sample is 100 S/cm, and in the PANI(CSA)_{0.5}/MC sample is 250 S/cm.

5 In both cases the metallic character will be noted at high temperature: drop in conductivity when temperature increases. Also, it can be seen that the maximum lies at a temperature T_{max} that is lower (200K) for the PANI(DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA film than for the film of
10 the prior art PANI(CSA)_{0.5}/MC for which it is 260 K.

Therefore, the conductivity of the polyaniline film of the invention is of metallic type.

Figure 2 shows the stress(MPa)/strain ($\Delta L/L$ as a %) curves of the PANI(DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA and PANI
15 (CSA)_{0.5}/MC films obtained during tests in which the film is regularly elongated at a constant speed of 1 mm/min, and the stress to be applied to the film is measured.

With the PANI(DEHEPSA)_{0.5}/DCAA film of the
20 invention, a factor of over 10 is gained for elongation to fracture, which demonstrates the much greater pliability of the film.

Comparative example 1:

25 The same operating mode is followed as in example 1 to prepare the solution, except that camphor-sulphonic acid is used as doping agent instead of the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid, in the same molar ratio of doping
30 agent/polyaniline mother. A film having conductivity of much the same order is obtained but its mechanical properties are distinctly poorer. In particular, it breaks on bending.

Comparative example 2:

The same operating mode is followed as in example 1 to prepare a solution, except that m-cresol is used as solvent instead of dichloroacetic acid. A film having more or less similar conductivity is obtained, however 10 to 15 % by weight of solvent subsists in the film even after extended pumping. The residual m-cresol is the cause of the film's unpleasant smell. In addition, on account of the slow release of the solvent, the mechanical and electric properties of the film change over time.

Example 2

In this example, a highly conductive self-supporting film of polyaniline is prepared, the polyaniline being doped with the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2 benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid following the same operating mode as in example 1. But the dichloroacetic acid is replaced by chlorodifluoroacetic acid. After pouring, a pliable film is obtained whose conductivity, measured using the standard 4-point technique, is 100 S/cm.

Example 3

In this example, a polyaniline-based conductor composite film is prepared in accordance with the invention, using polymethylmethacrylate as insulating polymer. The base emeraldine polyaniline and doping agent are prepared following the same operating mode as in example 1.

a) Preparation of the polymethylmethacrylate and plasticizer solution in dichloroacetic acid

5 ml of solution are prepared by mixing 1 g polymethylmethacrylate and 0.35 g dibutylphthalate with 5 dichloroacetic acid under vigorous shaking.

b) Preparation of the conductor composite material

0.5 ml of the polymethylmethacrylate and plasticizer solution are mixed in dichloroacetic acid 10 with 0.683 ml dichloroacetic solution containing 2.14 mg base emeraldine and 5.56 mg of the di-2-ethylhexyl ester of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic-4-sulphonic acid. The mixture is homogenized by vigorous shaking.

Films are poured from this mixture by slow 15 evaporation of the dichloroacetic acid at 40°C. The base emeraldine content of the dry films is 1.5 % by weight.

The conductivity of the films obtained, measured using the standard four-point technique, is 0.55 S/cm.

20

Comparative example 3

The same operating mode is followed as in example 3 to prepare a composite material from the same solutions, except that no plasticizer (dibutylphthalate) 25 is added. The conductivity of the films obtained, having a base emeraldine content of 1.5 % by weight, is 0.05 S/cm, that is to say an order of magnitude that is smaller than the value obtained in example 3.

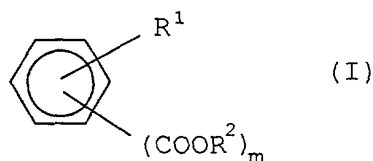
Cited References

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- [2] Polymer, 34, N° 20, 1993, pp. 4235-4240.
- [3] Synthetic Metals, 48, 1992, pp. 91-97.
- [4] Kulszewicz-Bajer et al., Synthetic Metals, 101,
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- 10 [9] WO-A-98/05040
- [10] P.M. Beadle, Y.F. Nicolau, E. Banka, P. Rannour &
D. Djurado in Synthetic Metals, 95, 1998, pp. 29-
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Amended claims to file when entering the National Phase

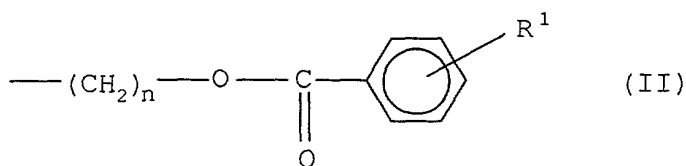
CLAIMS

1. Composition for the manufacture of polyaniline films, made up of a solution, in an organic solvent, of a polyaniline in base emeraldine form and of a dopant formed of a sulphonic or phosphonic acid, meeting the
5 formula:



in which:

- R^1 represents $-SO_3H$ or PO_3H_2
- 10 - R^2 is a linear or branched alkyl group and m equals 1 or 2, or
- R^2 is a group having the formula:



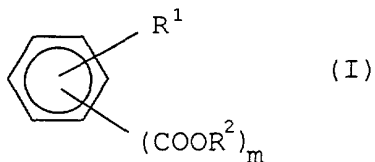
15 in which R^1 is such as defined above and n is a whole number ranging from 1 to 16, and m equals 1, with the exception of the di(n -amyl), di(n -decyl), di(butoxy-2-ethyl) and di[2-(butoxy-2-ethoxy) ethyl] esters of 5-sulphoisophtalic acid and of the esters of
20 5-sulphoisophtalic acid and rocanol.

2. Composition for the manufacture of a conductor composite material containing:

- an organic solvent,
- 25 - a polyaniline in base emeraldine form,

Amended claims to file when entering the National Phase

- a doping agent formed of a sulphonic or phosphonic acid, meeting the formula:

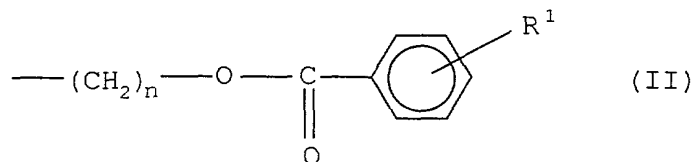


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in which:

- R^1 represents $-SO_3H$ or PO_3H_2 ,
- R^2 is a linear or branched alkyl group, and m equals 1 or 2, or
- R^2 is a group having the formula:

10



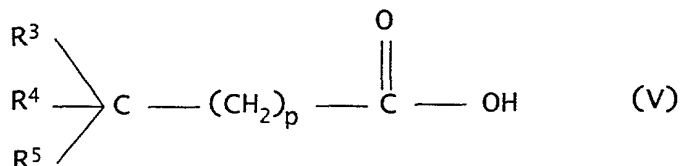
in which R^1 is such as defined above and n is a whole number ranging from 1 to 16, and m equals 1,

15

- an insulating polymer, and
- a plasticizer for the insulating polymer.

3. Composition according to claim 1, in which the solvent is a halogenated derivative of a carboxylic acid having the formula:

20



in which R³, R⁴ and R⁵, which may be identical or different, represent H or a halogen atom chosen from among F, Cl and Br, at least one of R³, R⁴ and R⁵ representing a halogen atom, and p equals 0.1 or 2.

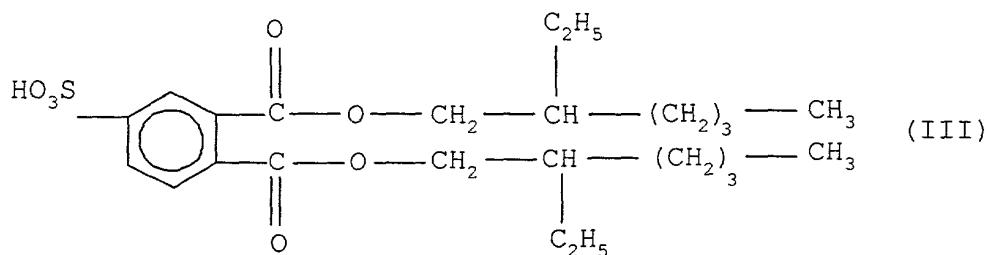
4. Composition according to claim 3, in which the solvent is chosen from among dichloroacetic, trifluoroacetic, difluoroacetic, chlorodifluoroacetic, 2-chloropropionic, 2-bromobutyric and 2,2-dichloropropionic acids.

10

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7. Composition according to claim 1, in which the sulphonic acid meets the formula:



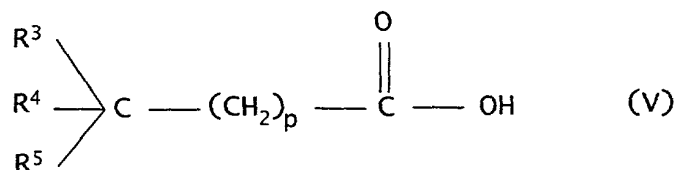
8. Composition according to claim 7, in which the solvent is dichloro-acetic acid.

Amended claims to file when entering the National Phase

9. Composition according to claim 1, in which the polyaniline and doping agent contents in the solution are such that the molar ratio of the doping agent to the polyaniline in base emeraldine form lies within the range of 0.4 to 0.6.

10. Composition according to claim 1, in which the polyaniline content of the solution is 0.1 to 1 % by weight.

11. Composition according to claim 2, in which the solvent is a halogenated derivative of a carboxylic acid having the formula:



in which R^3 , R^4 and R^5 , which may be identical or different, represent H or a halogen atom chosen from among F, Cl and Br, at least one of R^3 , R^4 and R^5 representing a halogen atom, and p equals 0.1 or 2.

12. Composition according to claim 11, in which the solvent is chosen from among dichloroacetic, trifluoroacetic, difluoroacetic, chlorodifluoroacetic, 2-chloropropionic, 2-bromobutyric and 2,2-dichloropropionic acids.

13. Composition according to claim 2, in which the sulphonic or phosphonic acid meets formula (I) in which m equals 2.

14. Composition according to claim 2, in which the sulphonic or phosphonic acid meets formula (I) in which m equals 1.

15. Composition according to claim 2, in which the sulphonic acid meets the formula:



17. Composition according to claim 2, in which
15 the polyaniline and doping agent contents in the
solution are such that the molar ratio of the doping
agent to the polyaniline in base emeraldine form lies
within the range of 0.4 to 0.6.

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Amended claims to file when entering the National Phase

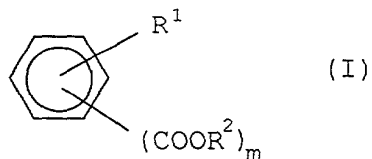
polymers, polyvinylchloride, polycarbonates, polyesters and polyurethanes.

20. Composition according to claim 2, in which
5 the plasticizer is chosen from among the diesters of phthalic acids, the diesters of dicarboxylic acids and the triesters of phosphoric acid.

21. Method for manufacturing a conductor
10 composite material containing a polyaniline, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:
- preparing a composition according to claim 2, and
- forming the conductor composite material from
15 said composition by evaporation of the solvent.

22. Method according to claim 21, characterized in that the composition is prepared by mixing a first solution of polyaniline and dopant in the solvent with
20 a second solution in the same solvent of the insulating polymer and of the plasticizer.

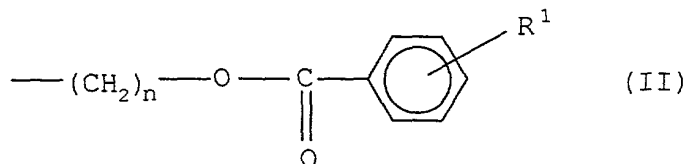
23. Electricity conductive composite material containing a matrix of insulating polymer in which a
25 conductor polyaniline is distributed doped with a sulphonic or phosphonic acid, meeting the formula:



Amended claims to file when entering the National Phase

in which:

- R^1 represents $-SO_3H$ or PO_3H_2 ,
- R^2 is a linear or branched alkyl group, and
m equals 1 or 2, or
- 5 - R^2 is a group having the formula:



10 in which R^1 is such as defined above and n is a whole number ranging from 1 to 16, and m equals 1, and a plasticizer for the insulating polymer.

24. Composite material according to claim 23, in which the insulating polymer is polymethylmethacrylate.

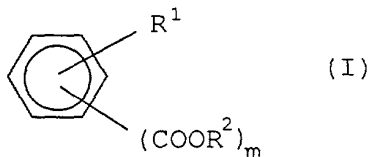
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25. Composite material according to claim 23, which contains:

- a) 0.06 to 10 % by weight polyaniline and dopant,
- b) 55 to 99.9 % by weight insulating polymer, and
- 20 c) up to 44.94 % by weight of plasticizer for the insulating polymer.

26. Polyaniline film, doped with a sulphonic or phosphonic acid, meeting the formula:

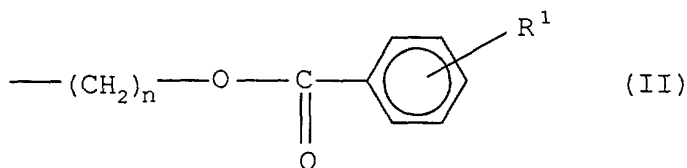
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Amended claims to file when entering the National Phase

in which:

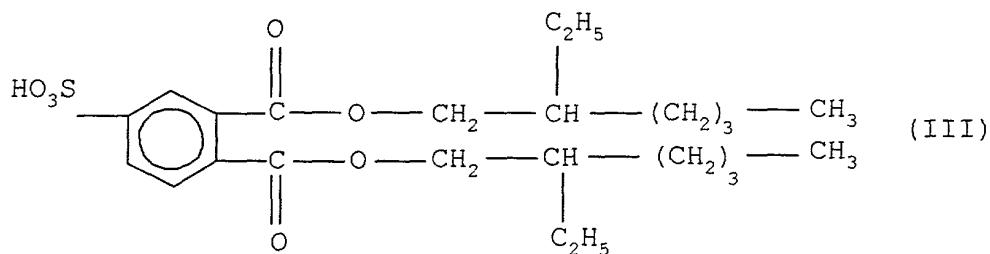
- R^1 represents $-SO_3H$ or PO_3H_2 ,
- R^2 is a linear or branched alkyl group and m equals 1 or 2, or
- 5 - R^2 is a group having the formula:



in which R^1 is such as defined above and n is a whole number ranging from 1 to 16, and m equals 1, with the exception of the di(n-amyl), di(n-decyl), di(butoxy-2-ethyl) and di[2-(butoxy-2-ethoxyl)ethyl] esters of 5-sulphoisophthalic acid and the esters of 5-sulphoisophthalic acid and rocanol.

15

27. Polyaniline film according to claim 26, doped with sulphonic acid having the formula:



20

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FIG. 1

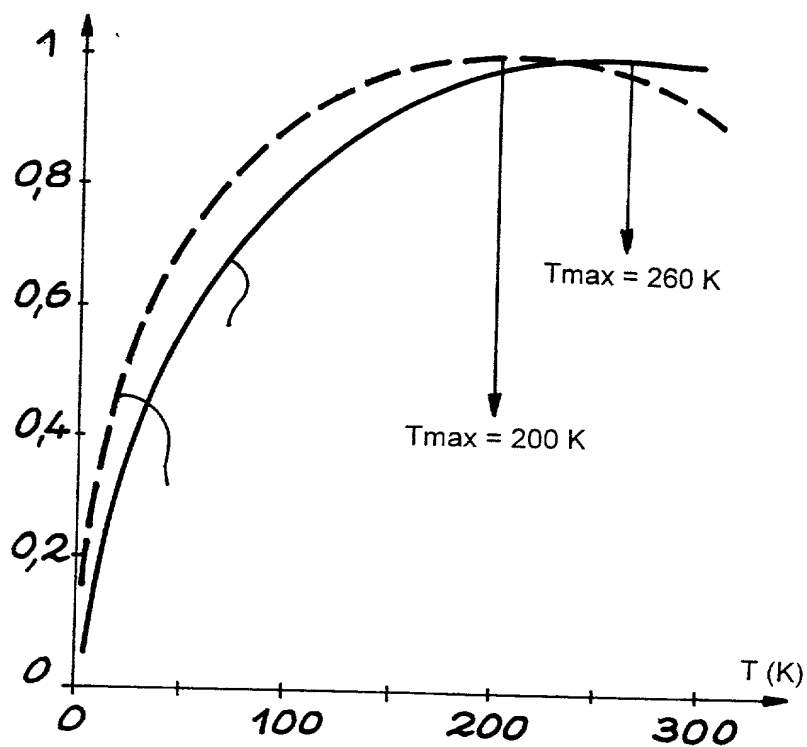


FIG. 2

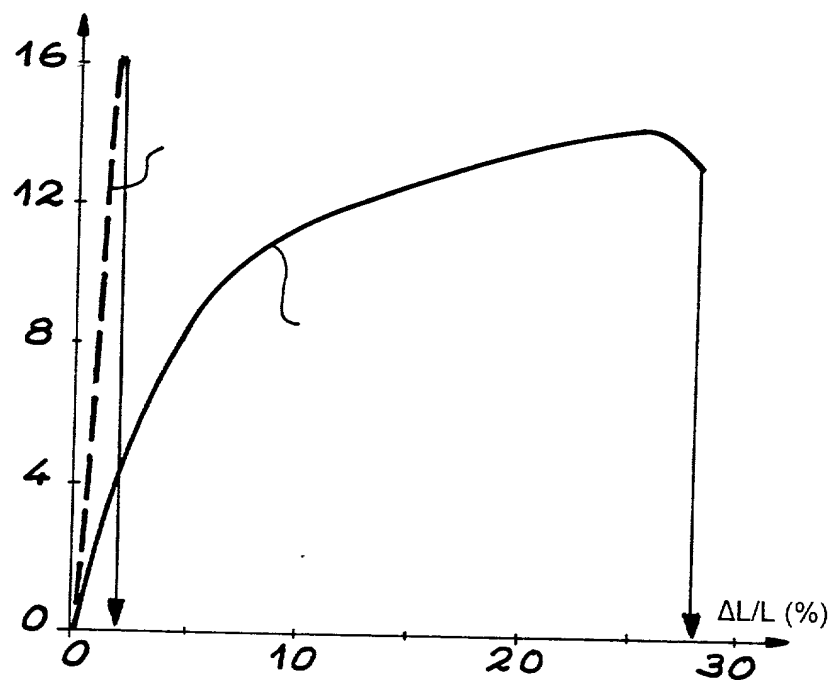


FIG. 1

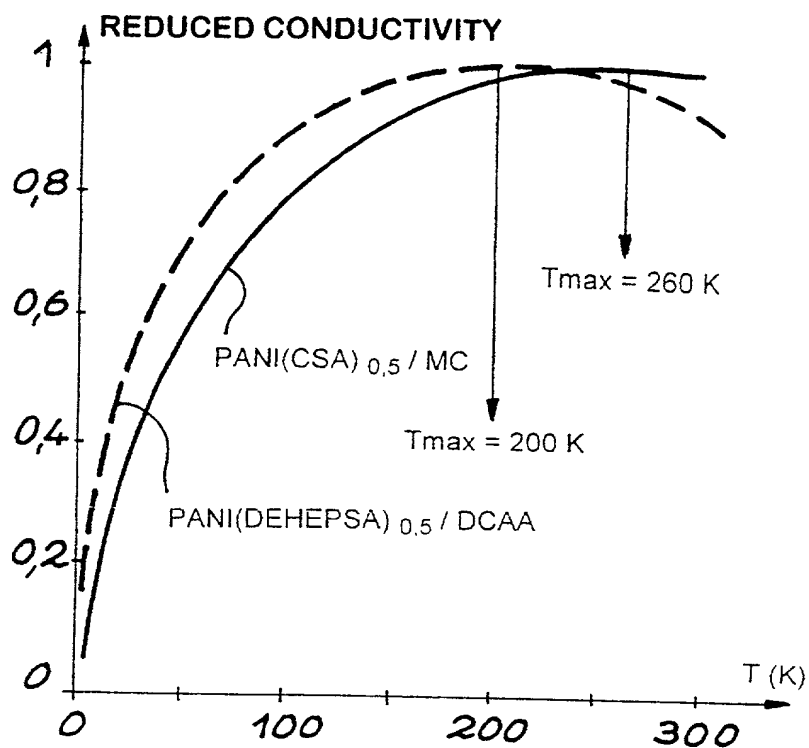
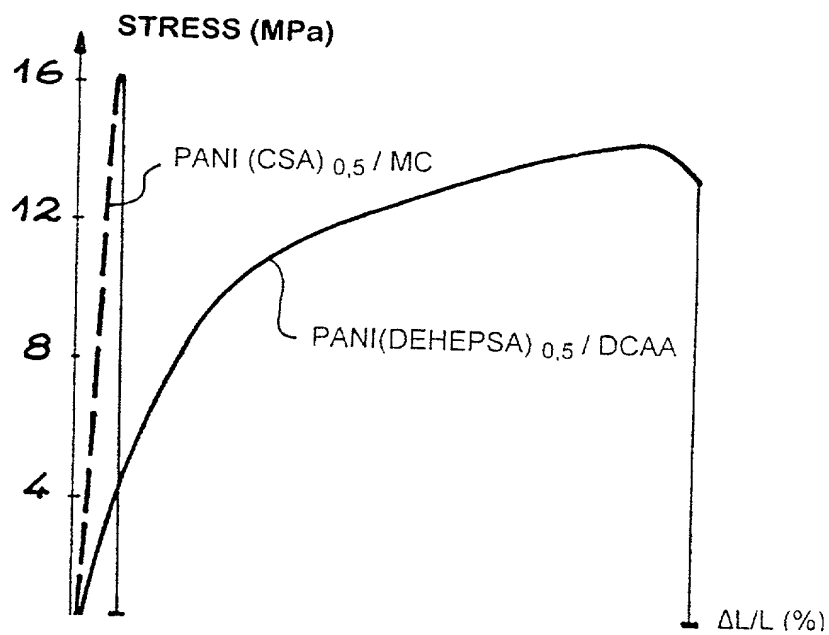


FIG. 2



Declaration, Power Of Attorney and Petition

WE (I) the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that :

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

USE OF SULPHONIC AND PHOSPHONIC ACIDS AS DOPANTS FOR POLYANILINE CONDUCTOR FILMS AND FOR POLYANILINE-BASED CONDUCTOR COMPOSITE MATERIALS

the specification of which

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☐ was filed on
as Application Serial No.
and amended on
- ☒ was filed as PCT international application
Number PCT/FR00/02017
on July 12, 2000
and was amended under PCT Article 19
on

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d) or § 365 (b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365 (a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application (s)

Application No.	Country	Day/month/Year	Priority Claimed	
✓ 99 09088	FRANCE	13 July 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 (e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.

Filing Date


Status (pending, patented,
abandoned)

And we (I) hereby appoint : Michael N. MELLER, Registration Number 20,779; Eugene LIEBERSTEIN, Registration Number 24645, our (my) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith; and we (I) hereby request that all correspondence regarding this application be sent to the firm of ANDERSON KILL & OLICK, P.C. whose Address is . 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10020-1182.

We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true ; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardise the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Signature of Inventor

Date

NAME OF FIFTH INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

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Citizen of : _____

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